



**Minutes Clarendon County Council
Regular Meeting
F.E. DuBose Career Center Auditorium
July 12, 2010 6:00 P.M.
Manning, South Carolina**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

1. County Council Chairman Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.
2. County Council Vice-Chairman W. J. Frierson
3. County Councilman A.C. English, Jr.
4. County Councilman Billy Richardson
5. County Councilman Benton Blakely

COUNTY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

- County Administrator, William Houser
- County Attorney, David W. Epperson
- Clerk to Council, Mia R. Jackson
- Human Resource Director, Linda P. Lemon

OTHER STAFF AND CITIZENS PRESENT: Vicki Williams, Grants Administrator, John Truluck, Development Board Director, Bob Dennis, Director of Water & Sewer Department, Sandi Tucker, Weldon Events Coordinator, Pat Goodwin, Town of Turbeville Administrator.

MEDIA PRESENT:

Clarendon Citizen

Meeting began 6:07P.M.

- I. Chairman Stewart thanked everyone for coming out during the inclement weather.
- II. Invocation was given by Councilman Richardson
- III. Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.
- IV. **Approval of Agenda-** Chairman Stewart entertained a motion to accept the agenda as presented to council. Motion made by Councilman English, seconded by Councilman Blakely to approve Agenda for the July 12, 2010 regular meeting as presented.
- V. **Approval of Minutes from June 14, 2010- Regular Council Meeting, June 21, 2010 and Special Called Council Meeting-Regular Council Meeting-**Chairman Stewart stated that due to the circumstances surrounding Ms. Pritchard she was not able to complete the minutes and council did not receive the minutes in time to review (received at meeting), Chairman Stewart suggested that the approval of the minutes be tabled to allow time for Council to review the minute as presented and to vote to accept them at next Council Meeting. The motion to table minutes until next Council meeting was accepted without objection.
- VI. **Consideration of first reading of Ordinance #2010-09, To Authorize the County to Revise and Amend Ordinance, pertaining to the Clarendon County Water and Sewer Department, and Other Related Matters.** County Administrator, William Houser and Water and Sewer Director, Bob Dennis presented the revised ordinance before council. Mr. Houser stated to council that the purpose of the revised ordinance is to codify the ordinances that were previously passed by County Council when the Clarendon County first acquired a Water system. Mr. Houser introduced Mr. Dennis to council who then gave further information on the

ordinance. Mr. Dennis stated that along with the consolidation of more than 13 ordinances, there will be a few additions to it as well. Mr. Dennis advised council that when the original ordinances were enacted, the

VII. Highway 260 Waterline Project was not underway. The current ordinances do not require: 1) Cross Connections (Back Flow Preventer), and 2) Water meters, with minimum water usage rate, including tap fees, collection costs, and administrative costs. He stated that with grant funds received from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA-Rural Development) there are certain requirements and equipment standards the county must meet. He explained both the Cross Connection and updated Meter rates. He advised that the Cross connection /Backflow device will prevent stagnant water and chemicals to return into the main water line that runs into the home and commercial properties. The ordinance will require annual testing to be accomplished and certified by a licensed backflow tester. He also advised council that the revised ordinance will incorporate updated meter requirement and meter rates(by USDA-RDA) to include: Minimum charge of - \$26.75 per month(0-3000 gallons), 3001 and above will be an additional \$6.25 per 1000 gallons. **Chairman Stewart asked**, Do businesses and other public entities be required to have the same standards? Mr. Dennis advised, yes; however it will be at their expense. *Chairman Stewart thanked Mr. Houser and Mr. Dennis for the information and stated he would entertain a motion if council so choose. Motion made by Councilman Richardson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Frierson to accept the first reading of Ordinance #2010-09 as presented. Motion Passed unanimously.*

VIII. Consideration of Resolution, Authorizing Clarendon County to reimburse itself for expenditures made prior to the County's consumption of a Federally Tax-Exempt Financing. County Attorney, David Epperson presented to Council a resolution to authoring Clarendon County to reimburse itself for expenditures pertaining to the acquisition of a parcel of land that will serve as the County Administration Building and renovations made to the existing Courthouse. Attorney Epperson stated that the amount Council should anticipate is \$5,500,000 for the entire project. He stated that once financing for the project is secured, Council would have authorized the transfer the expended funds back to capital funds. *Chairman Stewart thanked Mr. Epperson and stated to the Councilman that he would entertain a motion. Motion made by Councilman English, seconded by Vice Chairman Frierson to accept the Resolution as presented to Council. Motion Passed unanimously.*

IX. Consideration of Resolution, Authorizing the Council Chairman and/or County Administrator to enter into and execute documents relative to the purchase of a certain parcel of land with improvements thereon in Clarendon County, South Carolina. County Attorney read the title of the resolution advising council that Clarendon County has an opportunity to acquire an industrial building for use as a spec building at a very attractive price. Attorney Epperson stated that he would turn the podium over to the County development Board Director, John Truluck. Mr. Truluck thank Council for reviewing the ordinance and continued by restating that the County has an opportunity to acquire an industrial building that will serve as a spec building for potential industry in Clarendon County. He stated that the last spec building Clarendon County owned was sold and became the development of Select Labs Building in Manning, SC. He also stated that the owners of the building (at this time owner not disclosed) "are very eager to sell the building." He stated that the price of the building is very attractive. He told council that although the Development Board has funds reserved for construction of a building, The Development Board can also secure funds through funds through a cooperative effort. He also stated that at the price of the

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building, if Council decided to sell the spec, the county would still see a hefty return on its investment. Mr. Truluck advised council that the Development Board would have to use \$100,000 of their Building fund to assist with the acquisition of the property. **Chairman Stewart asked**, "How much money does the Development Board currently have reserved for construction of a building?" Mr. Truluck answered, "Currently we have about 1.2 to 1.4 million, somewhere in that area, not sure of the exact number.)" **Mr. Houser stated** that the price of the building is about \$600,000. After the funds are raised through the cooperative effort, Clarendon County will acquire a 3 million dollar building for about \$100,000. He also reminded council that just as with Select Labs, who purchased the previous spec building, Clarendon County will be able to able to sell the parcel of land and turn a profit. *Chairman Stewart thanked Mr. Truluck, Mr. Houser and Mr. Epperson for their explanations and turned to council for questions or comments. After no comments, Mr. Stewart stated that he would entertain a motion at this time. Motion made by Councilman English, seconded by Vice-Chairman Frierson to accept the Resolution to authorizing Council Chairman or County Administrator to execute documents relative to the purchase of certain parcels of land. *Note Council included the approval of the usage of \$100,000 of the Development Board Building fund to assist in the purchase. Motion passed unanimously*

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X. Consideration of Resolution, Authorizing Clarendon County to reimburse itself for certain expenditures made prior to the County's consumption of a Federally Tax-Exempt Financing. Attorney Epperson advised Council that this resolution was for approval to allow Clarendon County to reimburse itself for professional services provided prior to Tax-Exempt Financing is received. Mr. Houser stated that currently we are working with the Engineer and other professional entities to prepare Clarendon County for Hwy 260 Waterline Project. With no questions or comments Chairman Stewart entertained a motion. Motion made by Councilman Richardson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Frierson to accept resolution as presented to council. Motion Passed Unanimously.

XI. Presentations and Requests:

Request- Vicki Williams, Clarendon County Grants Administrator presented council with a grant application to purchase a new Fire Engine for the Clarendon County Fire Department. She stated that the Fire Engine the County Firefighters are currently using is 35 years old. She stated that the Firemen have resolved to use a coffin to store their equipment of top of the Fire truck. She gave the statistics on the Fire Engine alone; the cost of a new fire truck will cost approximately #300-350,000. In the year 2009-2010 alone, the 35 yr old engine made over 71 fire/rescue missions. She again asked for Council's approval to apply for the Grant for funding for a new Fire Truck. *Chairman Stewart thanked Ms. Williams for her presentation, and stated hopefully we can get the Fire Department a new truck soon.* Motion made by Councilman Blakely seconded by Councilman Richardson to allow Ms. Williams to submit the grant application for a new Fire Engine. Motion Passed unanimously.

Presentation- Vermelle Simmons, Partnership Agent for the US Census Bureau. Ms. Simmons gave an overview of the mailed in results from the 2010 US Census. She stated that on behalf of US Census Bureau, she wanted to say Thank you. She advised council that so far, Clarendon County alone had a 24% increase in mailed in responses alone. The Census Bureau is still processing no show responses by going door to door and making phone calls. Ms. Simmons told County Council that the US Census Bureau has moved to quality assurance mode, where the Bureau is re-checking to ensure everyone was given an opportunity to be counted. The Councilmen received a small package from Ms. Simmons which was included in their council packets that gave specific statistics on Clarendon County and South Carolina.

Presentation- Mike Briggs of SC Alliance, called ahead and stated that due to the severe weather we were experiences (at time of council meeting), he was not able to make it tonight's meeting. He has rescheduled to the August 9, 2010 meeting.

XII. Clarendon County Transportation Committee. The CCTC convened at 6:35PM. Upon commencing the committee, Mr. Houser advised council that there were 2 requests before them for approval.

The first request was for funding. Mr. Houser explained to council that SCDOT has mandated Clarendon County to not only repair portions of the State roads that are damaged during the construction of the Hwy 260 Waterline Project, but to also completely repave the aprons along the road. He explained that SCDOT requests that a 2" overlay extending 6-8 feet be paved along the road. M. Houser explained

that the original plan was to resurface the area, however to repave the aprons would cost an additional \$220,000(of USDA grant/loan funds). Mr. Houser stated that he has contacted SCDOT and has arranged for Clarendon County to use the SCDOT portion of the C-funds (25%) to repave the aprons as requested. With consent from SCDOT and approval from County Council, Mr. Houser requested to utilize approximately \$220,000 of the State portion of C-fund dollars. He explained that although the 25% of C-Fund dollars go to SCDOT, County Council can decide how the funds and where are used within the County. **Councilman Richardson**, asked, "This \$220,000 they would give it away?" **Mr. Houser**, replied, "Yes, they would use the 25% of the SCDOT portion to repave roads within Clarendon County. Council can decide how SCDOT spends the funds for roads." **Councilman Blakely**, asked "Couldn't we use those funds to pave other roads in the County then?" **Mr. Houser**, replied, "No, the 25% of SCDOT funds must be used on State maintained roads, not county roads." Councilman Blakely made a motion to utilize the SCDOT 25% of C-Funds to repair/repave the aprons along Hwy 260. Motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Frierson.

The second request was approval of Updated Transportation Committee Plan. Mr. Houser advised that each Councilman received in their packets a copy of the original Transportation Plan that is not dated, however that it was evident that it was established more than 10 years ago. The late Chairman Betty Roper signed the last plan. He told council that since the last plan, Clarendon County has undergone numerous changes like; the increase amount of county roads, bridges and paved roads in either owns and or maintains. After reading the Transportation Plan in its entirety Mr. Houser asked council to approve the revised plan. A motion made by Council English to accept the revised plan was seconded by Councilman Frierson. Motion to accept the Clarendon County Transportation Plan was passed unanimously.

Comments:

Councilman Blakely asked, if there could be a system set up to get citizens signed up for road paving. Mr. Houser advised Councilman Blakely that a system is already established for that in which the county already uses.

Chairman Stewart added that the revised plan should include a date.

After no further discussion the Clarendon County Transportation Committee concluded and closed.

XIII. Administrator's Report- Mr. Houser submitted his report as follows:

Clarendon County Finances

As of May 2010

Year to Date Revenue	\$16,338,888	or	95%
Year to Date Expenditures	\$15,488,500	or	90%
Year to Date (Rev.-Exp.)	\$850,388		

➤ **Clarendon County Water & Sewer**

As of June 30, 2010

June 2010 Revenue	\$332,285
June 2010 Expenses	\$283,439
TOTAL Revenue/ (Loss)	\$48,846

➤ **C-Fund Report**

As of April 30, 2010

Cash Balance	\$927,245
Tax +Interest received	\$92,395
Total Funds Available	\$1,019,640
Project Commitments	-\$329,974-Local Road Paving
	-\$597,519 State Projects
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TOTAL Committed	\$927,493
(* Uncommitted Balance	\$92,147)

"News and Tid-Bits"

Archives Building

Mr. Houser advised council on the status of the Archives building. He stated that the previous estimate for repairing the Archive building was approximately \$60,000. Since that estimate it was to his attention that the building is listed on the Historical registry for preservation and requires a trained architect to make repairs. Also since that time the damage to the damage is more than originally planned. The re-estimated cost for the repair has increased to approximately, \$160,000 to \$180,000. This will replace air conditioning unit (\$20,000), repair the roof, the interior walls and other damages to wiring and other electrical components of the building. One point Mr. Houser added was that council will need to decide whether to repair or replace the roof. To repair the roof would cost the county approximately \$120,000 with a 7 year warranty. To replace the roof would cost approximately \$160,000 with a 30 year warranty. Mr. Houser advised council that they will be made aware of any new developments and changes as they occur.

Recycling Center

This month Mr. Houser reviewed the Clarendon County 12 Recycling Centers in and around the county. **The report showed that over a 4-day period (July 2-5) the total amount of cars that visited the centers were 6,010.** This amounted to approximately 1502 cars that traveled through the centers on a daily basis. Mr. Houser reported that the center with the highest amount of visits was the Jordan station with 1410 visits and the lowest was Foreston with 50. He explained some of the variables range from which center are open, the location and how easy they are to access make a difference on the amount of visits they receive. Mr. Houser concluded stating that if the average for one day is 1502 the average for the month is 45,060 visits per month. **Chairman Stewart** commented, on pollution along a bike route use regularly uses. Numerous times, he's seen several beer and soda cans, and although we have a lot of visits to the recycling centers, we still see trash along the highways and streets. He reminded everyone that although we have codes to enforce against littering, the law enforcers must actually witness the trash being thrown out or be able to tie a suspect to the litter.

Grant Fund Summary

Mr. Houser reported that in FY 2009-2010 Clarendon County received more than \$32,000,000 in grant dollars. The grant funds went to a variety of departments like: Parks and Recreation, Waste/ Tire, FEMA Weldon Renovation, The Sheriffs Department, The Water and Sewer Department, and EMS. With additional comments or questions, that concluded the Administrator's Report.

XIV. Chairman's Report- Chairman Stewart submitted his report as follows:
Chairman Stewart announced that a copy of his report could be found in the council packets. He also congratulated Mr. Houser on being selected as the Regional Red Cross Hero for the Red Cross Heroes Campaign. He added that Mr. Houser was recognized in the State Newspaper with a picture his picture along side the other Campaign Heroes around South Carolina. He stated that some of the Councilman will be traveling to Hilton Head to attend the Annual Association Conference at the end of the month.

XV. There was no executive session required

Adjournment-Chairman Stewart stated that the agenda has been exhausted and will entertain a motion to conclude this months meeting. **A motion** made by Councilman Blakely, seconded by Councilman English to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting. Motion passed unanimously. **Meeting concluded at 7:00 P.M.**

There being no further business, Council adjourned at 7:02p.m. without objection.

Respectfully Submitted

By: Mia R. Jackson
Mia R. Jackson, Clerk to Council

Approved: August 9, 2010

By: Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.
Dwight L. Stewart, Jr., Council Chairman

CERTIFICATION OF PUBLIC AND MEDIA NOTIFICATION

I, Mia R. Jackson, Clerk to Council, Clarendon County Council, Manning, South Carolina, do hereby certify that public and media notification of the County Council Meeting of July 12, 2010, was given prior thereto by the following means:

PUBLIC NOTIFIED: Yes

MANNER NOTIFIED: Agenda placed on the bulletin board in the Clarendon County Courthouse and F. E. DuBose Career Center

DATE POSTED: July 10, 2010

MEDIA NOTIFIED: Yes

MANNER NOTIFIED: Agenda emailed to THE MANNING TIMES, THE ITEM, THE CLARENDON CITIZEN and THE FLORENCE MORNING NEWS

DATE NOTIFIED: July 10, 2010

PUBLIC HEARINGS ADVERTISED: *No Public Hearing scheduled for this meeting*

Respectfully submitted,

Mia R. Jackson

Mia R. Jackson, Clerk to Council